

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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17

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 SY-05 OMB-01 IO-13 DHA-02 /096 W

----- 115877

R 241044Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3712

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 1377

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, ML

SUBJ: COUP PLOT IN MALI

1. WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR TOLD CHARGE EVENING APRIL 23 THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL ARRESTS DURING LAST TWO WEEKS OF MALIAN ARMY OFFICERS AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS FOR ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITY. LEADER WAS REPORTED TO BE SORY KEITA, AN OFFICER WHO HAD SOMEHOW DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF DURING BORDER FRACAS WITH UPPER VOLTA 1974-75. THOSE ARRESTED HAD ALL BEEN STATIONED AT KATI, A MAJOR MILITARY BASE NEAR BAMAKO.

2. WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR DID NOT THINK THOSE ARRESTED HAD POSED SERIOUS THREAT TO REGIME, ADDING THAT KEITA HAD BEEN ARRESTED BECAUSE HE DRANK TOO MUCH AND HAD MADE TOO MANY STATEMENTS CRITICAL OF REGIME. HIS INTERROGATION HAD LET TO ARREST OF OTHERS.

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3. DURING PAST WEEK EMBASSY STAFF HAVE REPORTED AN INCREASE IN NUMBER OF SOLDIERS GUARDING PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE. MORE POLICE THAN USUAL WERE IN DOWNTOWN BAMAKO LAST WEEK, BUT ONLY ON TWO OCCASIONS. NORMAL AFFAIRS OF STATE, SUCH AS PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS BY NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR AND MAJOR CONFERENCE WITH EUROPEAN AND ARAB DONORS ON SELINGUE DAM, WENT OFF AS SCHEDULED.

4. WEST GERMAN EMBASSY HERE, WITH THREE OFFICERS, HAS WELL DEVELOPED NETWORK OF SOURCES, MANY OF THEM GERMAN ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS, WIVES OF FRENCH CITIZENS AND LONG-TIME RESIDENTS. THE EMBASSY'S INFORMATION IS USUALLY QUITE GOOD. THERE IS ALSO THREE MAN WEST GERMAN MILITARY MISSION--ENGINEERS--WORKING WITH MALIAN ARMY. THE AMBASSADOR, HANS ALBRECHT SCHRAEPLER, SERVED LAST IN PEKING AS COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR. HE HAS SPOKEN WARMLY OF ASSISTANCE HE RECEIVED FROM USLO AND HAS BEEN EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE.

5. COMMENT: THIS EMBASSY HAS REPORTED IN PAST ON GENERAL POLITICAL MALAISE THAT AFFECTS MALI, BUT THIS IS FIRST ACCOUNT OF ARRESTS OF ARMY PERSONNEL FOR COUP PLOTTING AND ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITIES SINCE DISCOVERY OF LAST COUP PLOT IN EARLY 1970'S. INCLUSION OF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS IS PUZZLING AND WOULD INDICATE SOMETHING LESS THAN THE HIGH PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS EXHIBITED BY PRESENT REGIME WHEN IT OVERTHREW CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT IN BLOODLESS COUP IN 1968.

6. FOR USDAO DAKAR: ARRESTS AT KATI PROBABLY EXPLAINS OUR INABILITY TO ARRANGE YOUR VISIT THERE IN MID-APRIL. DO YOU HAVE ANY BIO ON A SORY KEITA?
DAWKINS

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NNN

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